

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-10 LAB-01

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-07

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 AID-05 DRC-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 IO-03 /073 W

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R 111051Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3120

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: USSR STRATEGY ABOUT ET/CC AND EUROPEAN
LABOR UNITY

1. SUMMARY. CGT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY
TELLS U.K. LABOR COUNSELOR THAT USSR STRATEGY IS TO
PROMOTE LABOR UNITY ON A CONTINENT TO CONTINENT BASIS,
HENCE SOVIET PRESSURE ON CGT TO PUSH FOR ITS
ADMISSION INTO ETUC. CGT, WHILE INTERESTED IN JOINING
ETUC, IS "IRRITATED" BY SOVIET PRESSURE. END
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SUMMARY.

2. RENE DUHAMEL, CGT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TOLD BRITISH LABOR COUNSELOR (BULPITT) DURING CALL ON CGT HEADQUARTERS 5 OCTOBER THAT INDEED CGT IS INTERESTED IN JOINING ETUC BUT DOES NOT EXPECT THIS TO HAPPEN SOON. CGT EXPECTS A NEGATIVE DECISION BY ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 25 OCTOBER ON CGT PROPOSAL FOR INFORMAL CGT-ETUC DISCUSSION OF AFFILIATION QUESTION. CGT AWARE THAT DGB (GERMANY) AND FORCE OUVRIERE ARE LEADING OPPOSITION TO CGT AFFILIATION WHILE BRITISH TUC LEADS SMALL MINORITY FAVORING SUCH AN AFFILIATION.

3. DUHAMEL PROFESSED THAT CGT IS IN NO HURRY TO JOIN ETUC BUT THE SOVIETS ARE PRESSING FOR SUCH ACTION. ACCORDING TO BULPITT, DUHAMEL WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT THEY ARE "IRRITATED" IN CGT BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET PRESSURE.

4. DUHAMEL EXPLAINED THE SOVIET ATTITUDE BY WHAT HE BELIEVES TO BE USSR STRATEGY TO PROMOTE A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT ON A CONTINENT TO CONTINENT BASIS INSTEAD OF WORLD-WIDE UNITY THROUGH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS WFTU AND ICFTU. HE IMPLIED THAT IN USSR VIEW NATIONAL SENTIMENTS AND INTERESTS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE LESS OF AN OBSTACLE TO LABOR UNITY WITHIN A CONTINENTAL FRAMEWORK THAN WITH A GLOBAL ONE. HE FELT THAT THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED AND NATIONALIZED EUROPEAN CONTINENT.

5. DUHAMEL, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED SEGUY IN HIS RECENT AFRICAN TOUR (PARIS 21384), SAID THAT THE UNITARY MOVEMENT IN AFRICA IS STRONG AND CITED THIS AS EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE SOVIET APPROACH TO CONTINENTAL LABOR UNITY.

6. COMMENT: DUHAMEL'S SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS THROW LIGHT ON THE SOVIET STRATEGY WHICH WAS FIRST MANIFESTED IN THE WFTU CONGRESS IN VARNA, BURGARIA

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WHERE THE SOVIETS SUPPORTED CGIL OF ITALY IN ITS PROPOSAL TO REDUCE ITS AFFILIATION WITHFTU TO AN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. IN INTEREST OF PROMOTING THEIR BROADER OBJECTIVES SOVIETS APPARENTLY WERE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE TEMPORARILYFTU IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CGIL APPLICATION TO ETUC MORE ACCEPTABLE. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER CGIL WAS A WILLING OR ACCIDENTAL TOOL OF USSR STRATEGY.

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7. DUHAMEL'S STATEMENTS ARE ALSO SIGNIFICANT BE-

CAUSE THEY GIVE A MEASURE OF CGT'S ABILITY TO RESIST SOVIET PRESSURES. THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE WELCOMED, IF THEY DID NOT ACTUALLY PROPOSE' THAT CGT FOLLOW CGIL EXAMPLE OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN WFTU IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE ITS OWN ADMISSION INTO ETUC.

8. IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING THE SOVIETS' RELENTLESS DRIVE TO PROMOTE EUROPE-WIDE EAST-WEST LABOR CONTACTS OF TYPE ORGANIZED IN GENEVA LAST JANUARY ASSUMES NEW IMPORTANCE. THE SOVIETS SEEM TO COUNT ON CGIL-CGT ADMISSION INTO ETUC AS A MEANS TO UNDERMINE WE UNIONS AND EVENTUALLY EE "UNIONS" IN THE NAME OF EUROPE-WIDE LABOR UNITY.
IRWIN

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